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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/803,990

03/19/2004

Yasushi Okabe

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07/12/2005

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EXAMINER

GUADALUPE, YARITZA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/803,990

Applicant(s)

OKABE, YASUSHI

Examiner

Yaritza Guadalupe McCall

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 10, 12-14, 31, 33, 36-38, 40, 42, 43, 51, 53 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9, 11, 15-30, 32, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44-50 and 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/19/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 5, 10, 12 – 14, 31, 33, 36 – 38, 40, 42 – 43, 51, 53 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kimura et al. (US 6,665,047).

With respect to claim 1, Kimura et al. discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a main body (30) with a first opening (defined by the area receiving the recording medium) and a second opening (defined by the area receiving the cartridge), an accommodating portion (31) formed at the main body, wherein the first opening is in communication with the accommodating portion (See Figure 2); an exchange unit/cartridge (16) that is detachably attached to the accommodating portion through the first opening; a cassette accommodating portion (10) formed at the main body, wherein the second opening is in communication with the cassette

accommodating portion; and a cassette that is accommodated at the cassette accommodating portion and is movable relative to the main body between a first position and a second position (See Figure 1), wherein the cassette further comprises a holding portion (inclined surface defined by cassette #10) that holds a recording medium therein; and a cover portion (See Figure 1) that conceals the first opening when the cassette is at the first position.

In regards to claim 2, Kimura et al. also discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cover portion perpendicularly extends from the holding portion (See dashed lines in Figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, Kimura et al. further discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cover portion is formed with the holding portion integrally (See Figure 1).

With regards to claim 4, Kimura et al. also teaches an image forming apparatus wherein the exchange unit/cartridge (16) includes a photosensitive member (13), a charging device (14), and a developing device and developer container (15).

Regarding claim 5, Kimura et al. further discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the exchange unit further comprises a transfer roller (20).

In regards to claim 10, Kimura et al further teaches an image forming apparatus further comprising a feed path that extends from the holding portion (See Figures 5 – 7).

Regarding claim 12, Kimura et al. also discloses an image forming apparatus wherein at least part of the feed path extends parallel with a direction in which the exchange unit/cartridge (16) is attached to the accommodating portion.

With regards to claim 13, Kimura et al. also shows an image forming apparatus further comprising a first supply device (11) that is adjacent to the second opening and that transports the recording medium from the holding portion to the feed path.

In regards to claim 14, Kimura et al. teaches an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a slit opening that communicates with the feed path (as suggested from Figures 5 – 7 in order to allow the path of the recording medium to the image forming area)

Regarding claim 31, Kimura et al. discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a support portion (See Figure 1) provided at the cover portion, that supports the cover portion such that the cover portion is movable between an open position and a closed position.

In regards to claim 33, Kimura et al. teaches an image forming apparatus wherein when the cover portion is at the closed portion, the cover portion is perpendicular to the holding portion (See Figure 2).

With regards to claim 36, Kimura et al. also shows an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a first holding portion (handle shown in Figure 1), formed at the cover portion, that is used to move the cover portion to the open position.

Regarding claim 37, Kimura et al. further discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a first recess formed at a top surface of the cover.

In regards to claim 38, Kimura et al. also discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a second holding portion (See Figure 1), formed at the cover portion, that is used to move the cassette to the second position when the cover portion is at the open position.

With regards to claim 40, Kimura et al. shows an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a lock part (either frictional or mechanical) that keeps the cover portion at the open position and the closed position.

Regarding claim 42, Kimura et al. also discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a slit opening that communicates with the feed path in order to allow passage of the recording medium to the image forming section.

With respect to claim 43, Kimura et al. shows an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette further comprises a cover that is provided at the cover portion and that is movable between an open position and a closed position (See Figure 1), the cover revealing the slit opening when the cover is at the open position and concealing the slit opening when the cover is at the closed position.

Regarding claim 51, Kimura et al. further discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the cassette (10) further comprises a lock piece formed with the cover; and an engagement piece provided at the cover portion, wherein the lock piece is engaged with the engagement piece when the cover is at the closed position.

Regarding claim 53, Kimura et al. also discloses an image forming apparatus wherein when the cassette is at the second position, the distance between an inner surface of the cover portion and the outer surface of the main body is greater than a length of the exchange unit.

With respect to claim 54, Kimura et al. discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising a main body (30) with a first opening and a second opening; a process cartridge (16) that is detachably attached to the main body and that passes through the first opening; and a cassette (10) that is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the second opening of the main body, wherein an outer wall of the cassette conceals the first opening when the cassette is at the first position.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6 – 9, 11, 15 – 30, 32, 34 – 35, 39, 41, 44 – 50 and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are considered of relevance to the present application :

- a. Awai et al. (US 6,208,828)
- b. Sato et al. (US 6,895,199)
- c. Noda et al. (US 6,876,826)
- d. Azuma et al. (US 5,907,745)
- e. Sameshima (US 5,983,062)
- f. Nukaya et al. (US 5,041,872)

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaritza Guadalupe McCall whose telephone number is (571)272-2244. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



YGM
July 8, 2005

Yaritza Guadalupe-McCall
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2859